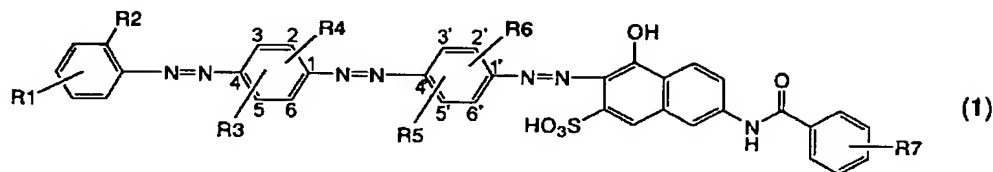


CLAIMS

1. An azo compound represented by the following formula (1) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof:

[Formula 1]



wherein R1 and R2 each independently represents a sulfo group, a carboxyl group, a lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxy group, R3 represents a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or an acetylamino group, R4-R6 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or an acetylamino group, and R7 represents a hydrogen atom, an amino group or a hydroxyl group.

2. An azo compound represented by the formula (1) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein the bonding position of R3 is 5-position, that of R4 is 2-position, that of R5 is 5'-position and that of R6 is 2'-position in the formula (1).

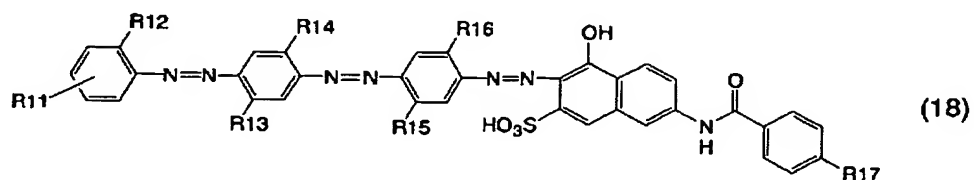
3. An azo compound represented by the formula (1) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to claim 1 or 2, wherein R1 and R2 represent a sulfo group, a carboxyl group, a lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxy

group, R3 represents a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group or an acetylamino group, R4 represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, R5 represents a lower alkyl group, and R6 represents a lower alkyl group or a lower alkoxy group in the formula (1).

4. An azo compound represented by the formula (1) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein one of R1 and R2 represents a sulfo group and another represents a carboxyl group, a methyl group or a methoxy group, the bonding position of R1 is para-position in respect to the azo group, R3 represents a methyl group, R4 represents a hydrogen atom, a methyl group or a methoxy group, R5 represents a methyl group, R6 represents a methyl group or a methoxy group, and R7 represents an amino group located in the para-position in respect to -NHCO- group.

5. An azo compound represented by the following formula (18) or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof:

[Formula 2]



wherein R11 represents an alkyl group or an alkoxy group, R12 represents a sulfo group or a carboxyl

group, R13 and R14 represent an alkyl group, an alkoxyl group or an acetylamino group, R15 and R16 represent an alkyl group or an alkoxyl group, and R17 represents a hydrogen atom or an amino group.

6. A polarizing film containing in a substrate of the polarizing film the azo compound or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to any one of claims 1-5.

7. A polarizing film containing in a substrate of the polarizing film the azo compound or a salt thereof, or a copper complex compound of the azo compound or the salt thereof according to any one of claims 1-5 and at least one of other organic dyes.

8. A polarizing film according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the substrate of the polarizing film is a film comprising a polyvinyl alcohol-based resin.

9. A polarizing film according to any one of claims 6-8 which is for liquid crystal projector.

10. A polarizing plate having the polarizing film according to any one of claims 6-9.